(SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) New Fertilizer plants are being set up to increase the production of fertilizers and to reduce the dependence on imports of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers. Besides, various schemes like revamping/ modernisation of the older units with a view to improving their production performance have been taken up. Captive power plants wherever considered necessary have also either been installed or are under installation in order to avoid production loss on account of power cuts/instability. The small gap between the assessed requirements and the domestic availability of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers is bridged through imports. However, the requirements of potassic fertilizers are met entirely by imports as there are no known sources of this material in the country.

(b) and (c) M/s. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO), M/s. National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) and M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers & Chemicals Corporation Ltd. (IGFCC) have submitted their proposals for doubling the capacity of their plants at Aonla, Vijaipur and Jagdishpur respectively. The proposals are being processed and a decision will be taken in the light of a confirmation regarding the availability of adequate gas by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and all other relevant factors.

Import of fertilizers

2731. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import fertilizers in the near future keeping in view the growing demand; and

(b) what are the consumption, production and surplus stock positions for the last three years and the projections for the same for the years 1988-89, 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. Import of fertilizers will be made to bridge the gap between domestic availability and demand.

(b) The information is given in the attached statement. (*See* below)

Statement

(Lakh Tonnes of Nutrients)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Consumption of fertilizers	84.74	87.38	90.12	102.0 (Target)	123.00—125.00 (Target)
Production of fertilizers	57.56	70.70	71.31	86.00 (Target)	89.00 (Estimated)
Stock of fertilizers at the end of the year as on 31st March	29.62	38.24	36.80	(Not yet estimated)	